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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,471	01/14/2002	George Triantopoulos	577-521	1043

7590 01/29/2004

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EXAMINER

PRASAD, CHANDRIKA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2004

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Paper No. 16

Application Number: 10/047,471
Filing Date: January 14, 2002
Appellant(s): TRIANTOPOULOS ET AL.

Stephen Cannavale
For Appellant

MAILED
JAN 29 2004
GROUP 2800

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 11/24/2003.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

The brief does not contain a statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief. Therefore, it is presumed that there are none. The Board, however, may exercise its discretion to require an explicit statement as to the existence of any related appeals and interferences.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

No amendment after final has been filed.

No amendment after final has been filed.

(5) Summary of Invention

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Issues

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) Grouping of Claims

The rejection of claims 1-9 stand or fall together because appellant's brief does not include a statement that this grouping of claims does not stand or fall together and reasons in support thereof. See 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7).

(8) Claims Appealed

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) Prior Art of Record

4,214,806

Kraft

7-1980

(10) Grounds of Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10(a) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2839

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

10(b) Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kraft.

Kraft (Figures 1-3) shows a connector 20 for attachment to an extending transformer stud 38 comprising an elongated central body 28 with a longitudinal bore 40 with an open end to accommodate the transformer stud 38 and an elongated conductor accommodating body 22 extending along the central body in a side-by-side relationship with the central body 28. The conductor accommodating body 28 has a plurality of conductor insertion apertures 30, 32, which are spaced along a length of the conductor accommodating body along a longitudinal direction coextensive with the longitudinal bore of the central body.

The central body 28 has a plurality of screw apertures 52 in communication with the longitudinal bore and the conductor accommodating body 22 has a plurality of screw receiving apertures 48 in communication with the conductor insertion apertures.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10(c) The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10(d) Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kraft.

Kraft shows all the features of these claims as described in Paragraph 10(b) above except another longitudinal body running along the central body with plurality of conductor accommodating and screw accommodating apertures and the orientation of the second body and the apertures therein. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to provide another longitudinal body running along the central body with a plurality of apertures for accommodating conductors and screws because this would require a mere duplication of an essential part which involve only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. vs. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

As far as the orientation of the second body or apertures therein, the instant invention does not provide any reasons or specific problems to be solved by a specific orientation. Orientation of a part depends on its relation to other parts and space available and involves only routine skill in the art, which would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

(11) *Response to Argument*

The applicant argues that Kraft does not show conductor insertion apertures longitudinally coextensive with the longitudinal bore of the central body. The examiner disagrees. Kraft does show conductor insertion apertures 30, 32 longitudinally coextensive with the longitudinal bore 40 of the central body 28. These apertures are spaced over a length of the conductor accommodating body 22 similar to those of the instant invention, which shows apertures 22b extending over a length of the body 22.

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The applicant further argues that the central (longitudinal) bore cannot extend longitudinally along the connector beyond any conductor insertion ports. This argument is not supported by claims language. None of the claims require such a feature. At the same time there is no reason why the longitudinal bore cannot extend beyond conductor insertion ports (apertures).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

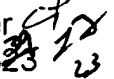



Chandrika Prasad
Examiner
Art Unit 2839



Chandrika Prasad
January 12, 2004

Conferees

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